GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2960
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2003
MOBILE SERVICE IN THE TRIBAL DISTRICTS
MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the policy being adopted for introducing cellular mobile service in tribal districts by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. ;

(b) the names of the tribal districts including their tehsils where this facility has been made available;

(c) the budgetary provisions made for introducing cellular facility in tribal districts in the current financial year;

(d) whether the cellular facility is likely to be made available in those tribal districts and their teshils by 31 December, 2003 where this facility is not available; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRADHAN)

(a) to (e): As per the terms & conditions of the License for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS), an operator for TelecomCircle Service Area is required to cover 10% of the District Headquarters in the Service Area within one yearand 50% of the District Headquarters within 3 years. The licensee is also permitted to cover any other town in a District in lieu of District Headquarters. The choice of District Headquarters/Towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/Towns shall lie with the licensee depended upon their business decision. It is not mandatory under the CMTS Licence Agreement to cover 100% of the Service Area.

However, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has adopted thepolicy of covering all the District Headquarters in the country & as on date has provided Cellular Service in 481 Districts other than those in States of Assam, North East & J&K. The details of the number of Districts covered alongwith names of the District yet to be covered is given in the Annexure. Investment of about Rs. 2500 crores was envisaged for the countrywide rollout of the mobile network which includes the coverage of District as well. The remaining District Headquarters are likely to be covered during the current financial year.

ANNEXURE

	Licensed Service Area	Number of District Headquarters covered	Name of the District Headquarters not covered
1	Andaman & Nicobar	1	Car Nicobar
2	Andhra Pradesh	24	
3	Assam #	0	
4	Bihar	37	Buxar
	Jharkhand	22	
5	Gujarat	28	
6	Haryana	19	
7	Himachal Pradesh	10	Keylong, Chamba
8	Jammu & Kashmir #	0	
9	Karnataka	27	
10	Kerala	16	
11	Madhya Pradesh	39	Bhind, Raisen, Sahajapur, Siddhi, Sheopurkalan, Dindori
	Chattisgarh	8	Dantawala, Jajgir, Kawardha,

	Kanker,			
	Koria,			
	Mahasamund,			
	Dhamtari,			
	Jaspur			
12	Maharashtra		34	
13	North East #		0	
14	Orissa		28	Deogarh,
	Gajpati			
15	Punjab		19	
16	Rajasthan		32	
17	Tamil Nadu		31	
18	Uttar Pradesh(West)	23		
Uttaranchal		13		
19	Uttar Pradesh(East)	47		
20	West Bengal		17	
21	Chennai TD		1	
22	Kolkata TD		5	
Total		481		

Note: Services are yet to be launched in J&K, Assam and North East LSAs.